

STATEMENT

by

Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Nikolaeva Harizanova MD, PhD

Head of the Department of Hygiene

Medical University of Plovdiv

Member of Scientific Committee appointed by Order № P-109-391/20.09.2021

of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna

for

Appointment of Academic position of **“PROFESSOR”**

in the Field of Higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, Professional field 7.1. Medicine

Scientific specialty “Hygiene”

In the competition announced in State Gazette issue 61 of 23.07.2021, there is one candidate participating: **Assoc. Prof. Ruzha Zlatanova Pancheva-Dimitrova MD, PhD.**

Analysis of the candidate`s career profile

Assoc. Prof. Ruzha Zlatanova Pancheva-Dimitrova was born in 1972, married with three children. She completed her secondary education in 1991 at the “First English School-Varna”, her higher medical education in 1997 at the Medical university of Varna. Then she started working at the Multiprofile hospital “St. Marina”-Varna as a resident doctor in the Pediatric Department and continues to work as a pediatrician to this day. In 2008 Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Probiotics in the prevention of dyspepsia in hospitalized children from 0 to 7 years” and was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the specialty “Pediatrics” (Diploma № 32911 of the Higher Attestation Commission of 03.02.2009). The candidate started her academic career at the MU-Varna in 2012 consecutively holding the academic positions of “assistant” (2012-2013), “senior assistant” (2013-2014), and since 2014 she has been an “associate professor” at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, MU-Varna. Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova has the recognized specialties in Pediatrics (MU-Varna, 2003) and in Nutrition and dietetics (MU-Varna, 2018). In the period 1995-2019 she has passed numerous qualification courses in Bulgaria, Australia, Germany, UK, Greece, Croatia,

Czech Republic, USA. Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova conducts qualification courses for continuous training. She has an excellent command of English, German and Russian.

General description of the submitted documents

The documents are submitted by the candidate in electronic form. In addition to the mandatory documents, she has submitted copies of references, statements, diplomas certifying her qualifications and professional activities.

Evaluation of the scientific work of the candidate

Scientific activity

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova participates in the competition with a total of 41 publications of which 10 are presented as monograph/habilitated work, all after the acquisition of the PhD thesis and academic position “Associate professor”. The publications are distributed as follows:

- 10 full-text publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science presented as monograph/habilitated work (3 of them in Impact factor journals; total IF=10.988)
- 8 full-text publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (1 of them in Impact factor journal; IF=2.174)
- 10 full-text publications in non-refereed per-review journals
- 9 full-text publications beyond those involved in the evidence material for covering the minimum requirements for occupying the academic title of Professor
- 4 workbooks for medical students
- 81 scientific congresses, conferences, and seminars

All publications are correctly described and testify that data from their scientific results have become available to the scientific community in the country and abroad.

Participation in projects

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova takes active participation in national and international projects – 24 in the period 2004-2021. She also has participations in 6 educational projects and programs. She is the Founder of the Breastfeeding School in Varna at the National Breastfeeding Support Association. She is a Collaborator of the “Karin Home” Foundation in the field of early childhood development and early intervention, as well as in working with children with special needs. Lecturer and consultant to several educational websites and magazines.

Scientific authority

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, The Association of Cell Biology, the Bulgarian Pediatric Association, the Bulgarian Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition, The National Association "Breastfeeding Support", European Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, Deputy Chairman of the Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and member of the Board of Directors of "Karin Home" Foundation. She has reviewed publications in national and international journals such as Biomedical reviews, Scripta scientifica salutis publicae, Frontiers of Nutrition and metabolism.

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova has established credibility among the scientific community.

Main directions and contributions to the scientific activity

I accept the scientific contributions indicated in the candidate's reference. They are grouped into topics of research interest showing consistency and focus in her academic development.

Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova has presented data for 37 citations mainly by foreign authors which is indicative of the recognizability of the candidate in the scientific community.

Assessment of teaching activities, incl. scientific guidance of students, PhD students, postgraduate students

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova has rich teaching experience. She conducts practical classes and lectures for students and postgraduate students in Bulgarian and English. Her academic yearly workload exceeds the minimum for MU-Varna – over 290 hours for the last three academic years. She has two successfully defended PhD students and is now a scientific supervisor of another. She has seven graduates. She is the co-authored 4 workbooks for medical students, two of which are in English.

Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova is an accomplished professional with extensive scientific production, recognized in Bulgaria and abroad.

Conclusion

The applicant participating in this competition complies fully with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its application and the Rules for development of the academic staff of the Medical University of Varna regarding the holding of the academic title of Professor. After analyzing materials presented and based on the complex assessment of the compliance with the mandatory quantitative and additional qualitative criteria for scientific and educational activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Pancheva-Dimitrova covers and even exceeds the requirements for the academic position "Professor".

The abovementioned gives me grounds to propose to the Scientific jury members to appoint **Assoc. Prof. Ruzha Zlatanova Pancheva-Dimitrova MD, PhD** the academic position of "**PROFESSOR**" in the scientific specialty "**Hygiene**", field of Higher education. 7. Healthcare and sport, Professional field 7.1 Medicine, for the needs of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University of Varna.

22.10.2021

Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Harizanova MD, PhD

